

Welcome to our New Staff

Charlotte Eppich will serve as the new Administrative Assistant for the Community Assistance Program, Map Modernization Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. Prior to coming to the Department of Natural Resources, Charlotte lived in the Atlanta Metro area and worked for Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners for five years as a Purchasing Associate II.

Community Assistance Program

The FEMA NFIP staff is taking another look at the NFIP regulations in 44 CFR 60.3. It has been 18 years since these regulations have undergone any major changes. If you have any ideas, please send them to Lisa Jones at jonesls@dnr.sc.gov.

Annexations

Please remember when submitting annexation information to our office, you must include the FIRM panel that the property is located on. If you have another staff member that handles the submission of annexation information, please coordinate with them to ensure the appropriate information is included.

Letters of Map Change

Keep in mind that Letters of Map Change (LOMC) are available for viewing at the Map Service Center (MSC) website (<http://msc.fema.gov>). To learn about the different ways to access

the LOMCs, click on *How do I find a LOMC?* under the **More Information** tab on the MSC homepage.

Map Modernization Program

The Map Modernization Program is gearing up to have a very busy fall and winter. This past quarter the Map Modernization Program kicked off four new countywide (Charleston, Colleton, Georgetown, and Jasper) studies. Additionally, work continues on the South Carolina Coastal Analysis that will be incorporated into the map updates for all the coastal communities currently involved in the map update process.

In the upcoming quarter, the Map Modernization Program will hold a PDCC meeting for Lee County, see the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination for York and Pickens County, as well as begin the Scoping Phase for the 23 remaining counties in our State.

The Map Modernization Program will contact floodplain administrators at the county level to begin coordinating Scoping Meeting in the next several weeks in all counties not yet involved in the Map Modernization Process. It is our goal to conduct the remaining 23 Scoping Meetings no later than February 2008.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

Part of the funding received each year under the FMA program is provided as planning grants.

These funds can be used to develop or update a flood mitigation plan, or update the flood-related sections of a multi-hazard mitigation plan. Other activities can be included as eligible line items in a planning grant, such as surveying structures in the floodplain and assessments of repetitive loss structures. Having a flood mitigation plan will help your community identify its vulnerability to flooding and outline mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate damage from flooding. Plus, you must have a flood mitigation plan approved by FEMA in order to qualify for FMA project grants!! For assistance is applying for a FMA planning grant, contact Lisa Jones at jonesls@dnr.sc.gov. You can also download a guide on writing a scope of work for a planning grant from FEMA's website at

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1858>

Emergency Management Institute

Don't forget as a local official you qualify for admission into the courses offered at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). This year EMI is offering a wide range of courses from *Managing Floodplain Development through the National Flood Insurance Program* to *Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts II*. For more information on applying for EMI, visit their website at <http://training.fema.gov/>.